

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following paragraphs on page 1, line 2:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application is a national phase application of international application PCT/EP2004/012111, filed October 27, 2004, and claims priority to German application 103 50 623.3, filed October 30, 2003, the both of which are herein incorporated by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please insert the following paragraph on page 1, line 21:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph on page 1, line 26, with the following amended paragraph:

The object is achieved according to the invention in the features of claim 1. Accordingly, one aspect involves a device for singulating vertically positioned flat mailings from a stack of mail. The device includes an input area, a transport section and at least one singulating stage located adjacent to the transport section and downstream relative to the direction of travel of the mailings. In the input area the stack of mail, aligned in relation to a supporting element, stands on underfloor belts and is held by at least one stack support), and the underfloor belts and the stack supports transport the stack of mail to the transport section. The transport section has at least two discharge rockers disposed on top of one another with discharge belts revolving in a driven manner, second discharge belts revolving in a driven manner that are arranged in a fixed manner adjacent thereto and downstream thereof, as well as a driven underfloor belt assigned to the discharge rockers and to the second discharge belts. A point of rotation of the discharge rockers is pressed by means of a spring force against the stack of mail. A distance sensor is assigned to each discharge rocker, wherein the distance sensor emits a drive start signal when there is a defined stack pressure on the

respective discharge rocker. The singulating stage has further discharge belts revolving in a driven manner whose speed of travel is higher than the a speed of travel of the second discharge belts. The supporting element ends at a defined distance upstream of the undeflected discharge rockers. A flexible, elongated retaining element is disposed and arranged in a resiliently pressed manner from the an end of the supporting element to a beginning of the second discharge belts and further on to the discharge belts and to the discharge belts of the singulating stage. The distance of the supporting element from the downstream end of the second discharge belts relative to the direction of travel is greater than the a maximum permissible length of a mailing. A control of the drives of the transport section and of the singulating stage is fashioned such that at the defined stack pressure on the discharge rockers all the drives of the transport section and of the singulating stage are started. Further, the drives of the transport section are stopped again or are reduced in speed as soon as a mailing held by the discharge belts of the singulating stage has their speed of travel. The drives of the transport section are restarted or switched to their normal discharge speed when a gap before the subsequent mailing is detected by means of a light barrier line disposed along the path of travel.

Please insert the following paragraph on page 3, line 30:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING

Please insert the following paragraph on page 4, line 2:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION